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LB 989

youngster that has cystic fibrosis to know, for example, that he will not live very many more years but through medical technology we have gotten to the point where we have extended the life expectancy of youngsters with cystic fibrosis and the average youngster, the average person, rather, with cystic fibrosis passes away at age twenty. However, we have been able to extend that. We know of one case that has reached age thirty-nine and we know of one case that has reached age twenty-eight but what we are doing here is just extending the crippled children's services to those youngsters, to those people, rather, for that period of time beyond twenty-one years of age while they are still alive. There is only about twenty identifiable adults, what we call adults, in the state that have this condition and the financial catastrophe that it creates for their state, for their families, rather, is devastating and we are just trying to help them over that burden. I move the adoption or I move to advance the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson and then Senator Cope.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I believe I would like to ask Senator Goodrich just a couple of questions if I could.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I assume that what we are doing, Senator Goodrich, is we are expanding right now the definitional base on the state's crippled children's program so that we will now include within that definitional base children who are genetically handicapped, is that correct?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Well, it is for those cystic fibrosis, hemophilia and sickle cell, only those three.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay, you may well be right, if that is the way the amendments read. I can't tell. I am just trying to read the bill and the amendments. The bill says Section 2...

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay, page 2, line 6.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay, 2, line 6 says simply that a Director of Health shall establish and administer a program for the medical care of persons of all ages with genetically handicapping conditions including cystic fibrosis, hemophilia and sickle cell disease. I kind of interpreted that to mean that whatever the genetically handicapping condition was it would be covered and we have three specific instances